

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICAE-00

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-----028978 111950Z /63

Z O 111830Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE ECJ3-BS FLASH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4282

JCS WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE SIT ROOM NIACT IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM IMMEDIATE

CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USDAO PARIS IMMEDIATE

USDAO DAKAR IMMEDIATE

USDAO RABAT IMMEDIATE

USDAO ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

CLIBMISH MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

21 AF MCGUIRE AFB IMMEDIATE

MACE RAMSTEIN AB IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LOME 1877

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS MILI TO

SUBJ: AIRLIFT OF TOGOLESE FORCES

REF: CINCEUR VAIHINGEN DTG 111045Z JUN 78

1. I HAVE JUST CONFIRMED WITH PRESIDENT EYADEMA THAT THE
FOUR USAF AIRCRAFT ARRIVING LOME TOMORROW WILL TRANSPORT
ONLY REPEAT ONLY VEHICLES, RELEVANT FCEIGHT AND DRIVERS. HE
WAS VERY ANGRY AT FRENCH GOVERNMENT WHICH HE CONSIDERS LET HIM
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DOWN BY NOT FOLLOWING UP ON ITS PROMISE TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT
INCOUNTRY IN ZAIRE.

2. AFTER TOGOLESE CONTINGENT OF 135 MEN DEPARTED 1300Z TODAY
(11 JUNE) ABOARD FRENCH MILITARY DC-8, EMBASSY LEARNED THAT EYADEMA
HAD MADE LAST-MINUTE DECISION TO SEND 320 MEN, AS HE HAD ORIGIN-
ALLY PLANNED, AND NO MOTORIZED TRANSPORT ELEMENT. PRESIDENT

DESIGNATED LTC KOFFI KONGO AS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE COMMANDER OF PROPOSED TWO COMPANY FORCE. SURPRISED KONGO NOW IN ZAIRE DEPRIVING EMBASSY OF EXCELLENT LIAISON OFFICER.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONTACTS WITP COL PAUL MOQUET, FRNECH MILITARY ADVISOR TO TOGOLESE ARMY, IN COURSE AFTERNOON, IT BECAME CLEAR PRESIDENT WAS ADAMANT THAT HE WAS SENDING TWO COMPANY FORCE AND CONSIDERED IT WAS FRANCE'S DUTY TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT.

4. SINCE THIS WOULD HAVE INVOLVED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN FLOW PLAN AT SHORT NOTICE, I DECIDED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH EYADEMA AND PHONED HIM AT HIS VILLAGE AT PYA IN NORTH TOGO.

5. I EXPLAINED THAT THE FLOW PLAN WAS BASED ON JCS INSTRUCTIONS, AFTER COORDINATION WITH THE FRENCH, AND WHETHER OR NOT FRENCH HAD REPRESENTED HIS WISHES ACCURATELY TO THE USG, I WOULD BE FORCED TO ALERT THE USAF THAT THE FLOW PLAN WOULD HAVE TO BE MODIFIED TO ACCOMODATE HIS DESIRE TO SEND 320 MEN AND NO VEHICLES. I SAID THIS COULD LEAD TO GREAT INCONVENIENCE TO ALCON AND USAF FLIGHTS FOR TOGO COULD NOT BE ASSURED. EYADEMA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM BUT THE FRENCH HAD MADE A PROMISE TO HIM WHICH THEY OUGHT TO KEEP. HE FINALLY AGREED TO SEND THE VEHICLES.

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6. RECOMMEND JCS, IN COORDINATION WITH FRENCH, CONSIDER ADDING FLIGHTS, IF POSSIBLE, TO SEND ADDITIONAL 184 MEN.

7. COL MOQUET HAS APPOINTED HIMSELF LIAISON, IN KONGO'S ABSENCE, AND GUARANTEED ALL NECESSARY CLEARANCES. HE HAS ARRANGED ROOMS FOR USAF PERSONNEL AT HOTEL BENIN. MOQUET HAS ALSO TAKEN CARE OF TRANSPORT REQUIREMENT. MOQUET AND AMBASSADOR WILL MEET INITIAL C141 SORTIE AT 12/0800Z JUN. PALMER

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